



MEETING MINUTES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Tuesday, June 1, 2017

8:30 a.m.

4100 220th Street, Suite 102
Farmington, Minnesota

Board Members Present:

Laura Zanmiller, Chair
Kevin Chamberlain, Vice Chair
Chelsea Skog, Secretary
Jayne Hager Dee, Treasurer
Bruce Johnson, Public Relations

SWCD Staff Present:

Brian Watson
Lana Rotty
Curt Coudron
Todd Matzke
John Stelzner
Danielle Palm, MCC

Others Present:

Michelle Wohlers, NRCS
Karen J. NRCS

1. Call to Order

Chair Zanmiller called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. A quorum was present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Zanmiller led the Board of Supervisors in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Presentation

Todd Matzke, Resource Conservationist, provided a presentation on the Agricultural Engineering Program.

Supervisor Johnson joined the meeting. Want this listed?

4. Audience

Chair Zanmiller asked if there was anyone in the audience that wished to address the board on an item that is not on the agenda. No one appeared.

Watson introduced Danielle Palm, Minnesota Conservation Corps Intern. He stated that she will be working here through August 11th. Dani provided information on her educational background and work experiences.

Karen Jokela, introduced herself as an employee of the Xerces Society in partnership with the NRCS. She is the Farm Bill Pollinator Conservation Planner and NRCS Partner Biologist and will be supporting the local and regional landowners with pollinator habitat on their lands.

5. Approval of Agenda

17.052 Motion by Chamberlain, second by Dee to approve the agenda as presented. All members voting yes. Motion carried.

6. Secretary's Report – May 2, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes

17.053 Motion by Skog, second by Dee to approve the May 2, 2017 Meeting Minutes. All members voting yes. Motion carried.

7. Treasurer's Report

7.1 June 1, 2017 Accounts Payable

17.054 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to approve the June 1, 2017 Accounts Payable. Members voting yes: Chamberlain, Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson, Dee. Motion carried.

7.2 May 31, 2017 Financial Report

17.055 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to accept the May 31, 2017 Financial Report, subject to audit. All members voting in favor. Motion carried.

8. Finance Committee

8.1 Review 1st Quarter Finance Report

Dee stated that the Finance Committee met on May 23rd to review revenues and expenditures for the first quarter. Watson added that both revenues and expenditures are anticipated to be a slightly higher than the 2017 adopted budget. Watson noted that the committee changes in the revenue and expenditures are reflected in the working budget column of the referenced document. The anticipated year end finances from this point forward will largely depend on the number and scope of projects installed. Dee commented that with commodity prices low, she wondered if that will influence landowner willingness to proceed with conservation projects. Dee added that the finance committee will continue to meet quarterly.

9. Rural Lands Committee

9.1 Authorization to Provide Final Payment to George Hallcock for Installation of Lined Outlet 17-IPP-01

Coudron provided an overview of the George Hallcock project for the installation of a lined outlet. He stated that this project repaired and stabilized the gully using synthetic turf reinforcement mat. The total project cost was \$1,231.82. Matzke further reviewed the drainage issues that preceded the project installation. Dee commented on how quickly this project was installed.

17.056 Motion by Chamberlain, second by Dee to provide final payment to George Hallcock for installation of a lined outlet Section 34, Castle Rock Township, Cannon River Watershed at 75% cost share, not to exceed \$923.87. Members voting yes: Zanmiller, Skog, Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain. Motion carried.

9.1 Authorization to Execute Contract with Eugene Kimmes for Installation of Diversion, Grassed Waterway and Critical Area Planting 17-IPP-04

Coudron provided an overview of the Eugene Kimmes cost-share request for the installation of a 1,040 foot diversion, reconstruction of a 1,260 foot grassed waterway, and a 1.75 acre critical area planting. The critical area planting is enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Coudron stated that a 1,200

foot long gully is forming along the south side of an existing grassed waterway. Gullies have also formed on both sides of the existing drainage ditch that flows through the property. A diversion will be installed adjacent to 250th street to direct runoff into the existing grassed waterway which will be reconstructed to current practice standards. The grassed waterway then outlets to a drainage ditch. The banks of the drainage ditch will be graded to allow better sheet flow from the fields to enter the drainage ditch and prevent the formation of gullies along the sides. Fifty-foot wide native grass filter strips will be planted on both sides of the drainage ditch for approximately 750 linear feet. The project will reduce erosion and sediment loading within the Trout Brook watershed and is designated as a priority location based on cost-effectiveness. As a priority location, the project is eligible for up to 90% cost share. The total project cost is estimated at \$21,900.

17.057 Motion by Chamberlain, second by Johnson to execute contract with Gene Kimmes for installation of diversion, grassed waterway and critical area planting in Section 14, Hampton Township, Cannon River Watershed at 90% cost share, not to exceed \$19,710. Members voting yes: Skog, Johnson, Dee, Chamberlain, Zanmiller. Motion carried.

10. Committee of the Whole

9.1 Adopt Resolution Identifying “Other Watercourses” Under Minnesota Buffer Law

Watson stated that the Minnesota Buffer Law was signed in June of 2015 and was subsequently amended in August of 2016. Minnesota Statute 103F.48, the Buffer Law, requires soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs) to develop, adopt, and submit to each local water management authority within its boundary a summary of “other watercourses” to include in the local water management authority's plan.

The Buffer Law recognizes that cultivated lands adjacent to “other watercourses” not identified on the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Buffer Protection Map may benefit from the installation of vegetated buffers or alternative practices to protect or improve water quality. It also establishes a process for SWCDs to initiate a local riparian protection program that is incorporated into local water management plans.

Watson explained that consultation with each of the six watershed management authorities located within Dakota County occurred to obtain feedback regarding additional watercourses. Watson stated that the summary of other watercourses for the county is as listed:

Black Dog WMO – none

Egan-Inver Grove Heights WMO – none

Lower Minnesota River WD – none

Lower Mississippi River WMO – none

North Cannon River WMO, the addition of watercourses identified in Figure 2.3 of existing watershed plan Vermillion River Watershed JPO, the addition of watercourses identified in Map 1 of existing watershed plan.

Watson added that the identification of “other watercourses” does not make these areas subject to the regulatory requirements of the Minnesota Buffer Law.

17.058 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to adopt the resolution Identifying “other watercourses” under the Minnesota Buffer Law as written Resolution 2017-01 entitled Local Water Resources Riparian Protection in Dakota County. All members voting yes. Motion carried.

9.2 Review and Consider Policy Resolutions

Watson drafted two resolutions for consideration; Cooperative Agreement with Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service, One Watershed One Plan Implementation Funding.

He further reviewed the Cooperative Agreement with Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service and stated that this resolution will seek MASWCD involvement to ensure information on lands enrolled in publically funded federal conservation programs such as Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) or other related conservation programs is coordinated and provided to SWCDs to further prioritize, target and measure watershed based implementation efforts.

He added that the One Watershed One Plan Implementation Funding resolution will seek MASWCD involvement to seek reliable and stable funding for soil and water conservation districts located within the 7-county metropolitan area when comprehensive plans are provided as required under Minnesota Statute 103C and participation in One Watershed, One Plan for watershed management organizations and watershed districts is voluntary.

Watson distributed the MASWCD standing policy that was adopted in 2016. Under the one watershed one plan, compliance is voluntary. The resolution does not just pertain to the metro area.

56 watersheds in state, 28 in metro area. With that, BWSR is struggling with policy on how to distribute funding in the metro area. Watson added that his on a committee that is reviewing the issue on distrubting funding in the metro area.

There was general discussion on the two resolutions.

11. Interagency Reports and Announcements

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Michelle Wohlers provided the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) agency report. She stated that the office is working on contracts for the 12 funded Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The projects include irrigation water management, cover crops, season high tunnel, basins, grazing plans, and planting plans. Those contracts must be finalized this week. The 2018 application deadline is August 18. Wohers added that she thought producer feedback would change that date, however it did not.

Regarding the Minnesota Ag. Water Quality Certification Program, she indicated that they started with 13 landowners and it appears that five will be funded. There were some issues with eligibility requirements between agencies and this unfortunately left many unfunded contracts. There was a significantly more applications than funded.

They have 10 new Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts with possibly an additional 10 more – what? The focus of CRP is the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), if it does not include CREP, it will be moved to next year.

Working also stated that she is working with Karen on inter-agency training.

Watson added with the MAWQCP... curve Dept of Ag and NRCS fuding process threw a curve. May need to discuss potential amendement to ur policy to include cost-share on cover crops.

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

There was no Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation District report. However, Watson stated that the Area meeting and tour is scheduled for Wednesday, July 12th.

Metro Conservation Districts Joint Powers Board

There was no Metro Conservation District Joint Powers Board report.

Dakota County

Brad Becker provided the Dakota County report. He stated that the topic of this report would be the Dakota County septic system program. Dakota County has jurisdiction on septic systems installed in shoreland and floodplain areas, Randolph township, City of Randolph, and the city of New Trier.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency administers this statewide regulation. The county ordinance has higher standards than the State program. A few of the standards include that with property transfers septic systems must be inspected and requiring a slightly larger holding tank for certain sites. With property transfers, the seller is responsible to disclose any issues.

All septic systems within county, must be pumped every 3 years. If the county does not receive a record of pumping, they send landowner letters regardless of jurisdiction.

The County currently has a low income loan program available to all landowners in the county. This program offers a payment not to exceed \$10,000. The County has recently implemented a new tax assessment program, allowing landowners that install a new septic system to have the option of an assess payable over a certain number of years.

Becker stated that cities and townships can turn down regulatory authority with a six month notice. Waterford township is giving up their regulatory authority as of July 6, 2017.

Becker further stated that another change to this program is that Michael Rutten, an Environmental Specialist, is retiring. Michael has worked at the county for approximately 30 years and one of his primary duties is to oversee the County Septic System ordinance is retiring as of September 29. That vacancy has been announced and is scheduled to close on June 11 and so far 99 applications have received.

Becker also stated that in mid-June there will be more information available on the City of Randolph Septic System issue.

MCD – other waters discussion. Set up a google document that will identify resources that can be shared throughout the area. Watson added that this is basically a cross-training opportunity. For instance, he noted that we have staff that have expertise with native plantings and may be able to offer

Hopes that it will be helpful with technical approval authority issues.

The Children's Water Festival is being expanded to include more local schools and a lottery system will be implemented.

MASWCD

... Watson distributed information on the July 12 Summer Meeting and Tour. He added that Washington Conservation District is the host and the meeting and tour will both be held on a boat. Registration need by June 28.

Leadership program is being reinstated. Registration is requested by July 14.

Cannon River One Watershed, One Plan Policy Committee

There was no Cannon River One Watershed, One Plan Policy Committee report. Chamberlain stated that the next meeting is tomorrow and that Dee will be attending on behalf of the District.

Policy meeting was held May 3rd. Last night the Kick Off meeting for public input was held. Emmons Oliver Resources, was on hand... all counties and SWCDs had information tables. BWSR, DNR, PCA, Dept of Health. Well attended. SWCD presented at 5. Plan will be underway.

Net meeting first Wednesday in August.

12. Upcoming Meetings and Events

Zanmiller noted that the next Board meeting will be Thursday, July 6. Reminder of tour on July 12.

13. District Managers Report

Watson stated that the Minnesota Department of Agriculture has contacted him regarding the possibilities of implement the Minnesota Ag. Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) regionally from the Dakota SWCD office. Watson stated that the employee would provide MAWQCP certifications and site field assessments for Dakota, Scott, Carver, Washington and Goodhue counties and maybe a portion of Rice County. The duties must be performed by a Certified Conservation Planner and time is estimated to be at 75% of one full time employee, however, the length of funding is unknown. Watson will provide more information as the details of this proposal become available.

Watson noted that Danielle Palm, a Colorado State University graduate and a resident of Rosemount, will begin as the Conservation Corps Summer Apprentice on May 22.

Watson legislative funding will be same as last two years. Local Capacity Funding will remain in the Clean Water Fund. Watson added that Governor Dayton's letter to the legislative body included soil and waters. One specifically stated that if there is a surplus in the state budget in November, some of that funding should be designated for soil and water conservation districts.

Watson added that we are in the process of getting email accounts for each of the Supervisors. The email will automatically be forward their personal email. The email address will be posted on our website.

14. Adjourn

17.059 Motion by Dee, second by Johnson to adjourn the meeting. All members voting yes. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:09 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chelsea Skog, Secretary